

T-15

## Christ Church

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 04-05-2004***

Christ Church  
South and Harrison Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-15  
1840-1848  
and Later

Christ Church is a product of the revival of English Gothic architecture in the nineteenth century. Due to the influence of the famous architect, Richard Upjohn, who built Trinity Church in New York and worked all through New England, this form became popular. The pointed arch windows and doors, the heavy stone construction, and the details of Gothic revival make it an interesting example. It was the first church in Easton to add a spire and church bell to its tower.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T-15  
2100154409

Town of Easton

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Christ Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South and Harrison Streets

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Vestry of St. Peter's Parish

Telephone #: 301-822-5459

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o Rev. Charles Martin  
Christ Church Rectory

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Talbot County Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Town of Easton Survey by Paul Brinkman and N. R. Field

DATE

Sheet by William Morgan

August 29, 1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

T-15

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Christ Church, Easton, is a rectangular masonry building with a projecting square tower at the north end (orientation is north-south with altar at the south); there is also a smaller, slightly wider part at the rear which contains the chancel. The nave walls are buttressed by simple buttresses at the corners and there are four nave windows on each side, plus two identical windows flanking the entrance tower. The tall narrow pointed windows are set within stone arches (about a foot deep), and each window has double pointed mullions (double lancets) with a small quatrefoil at the top. Three of the windows have illustrative late nineteenth century stained glass (actually one of these may be newer); other windows, plus the 'west' window over the entrance, have diamond shaped mullions and earlier geometrical patterned glass. There is a simple wood spire above the tower which has a bracketed wood cornice of simple design.

The interior of Christ Church consists of a large, auditorium-like rectangular nave which is divided by a wide center aisle (there are narrow side aisles against the side walls). The slip pews have poppy head finials. The rather wide expanse of ceiling (for a masonry arch, which this is not) is spanned by a hammer beam roof with pendant drops and a panelled ceiling. The chancel is almost as wide as the nave and is separated by a wide arch supported by engaged, unfluted columns with composite capitals. A double arched arcade, resting on a central composite column with colonettes and on corbeled engaged columns (with capitals similar to those of the chancel arch), opens on the side (east) of the chancel to the organ. The west chancel wall is blank. A gallery lines the rear wall of the church, its central portion projecting. There is a triple, composite lancet window over the altar.

A stone parish house was added to the rear of the church in 1893."

Description written by William Morgan

Department of Art History

University of Delaware

Newark, Delaware

June 12, 1969

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1840-1848 and Later BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Strickland

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is significant for its architecture. In the mid nineteenth century, Christ Church was fortunate in selecting as its pastor a man devoted to both architecture and theology. The builder of Christ Church and its Rectory, Rev. Henry M. Mason, came to Easton from Salem, New Jersey, in 1838. There he had been closely affiliated with the Rt Rev. George W. Doane, a builder of several churches in New England and a leader in the American Ecclesiology Movement. Ecclesiological theory, founded in England in the early nineteenth century, favored the English Gothic parish church as a model for construction of churches. In the United States, William Strickland, a leading American architect and proponent of Ecclesiological theory, had designed a church for Rev. Mason in Salem, New Jersey, in 1836. Christ Church is based on these plans.

Originally, the tower had four wooden pinnacles at the corners. These were removed in the late nineteenth century and a central window on the entrance facade was shortened. The three-part door was replaced by a single opening in 1878. The chancel, added in 1876, was needed to respond to changes in liturgy and to reflect common church form of the time. Although histories of the church and local tradition attribute the chancel to Richard Upjohn (the designer of the Rectory) it was planned after the noted architect had retired.

The timber roof was constructed in 1922, at the same time that electric lights were installed. Between 1871 and 1884, the poppy headed pews replaced earlier seats.

Mr. Reynolds, a local builder, built Christ Church based upon the architectural advice of William Strickland. Reverend Mason was rector of the Church at the time of construction.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Notes from Christ Church Directories 1913, 1923, 1926.  
 Stanton, Phoebe B., The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture,  
 Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1968.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

NA

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE None

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

January 7, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,  
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

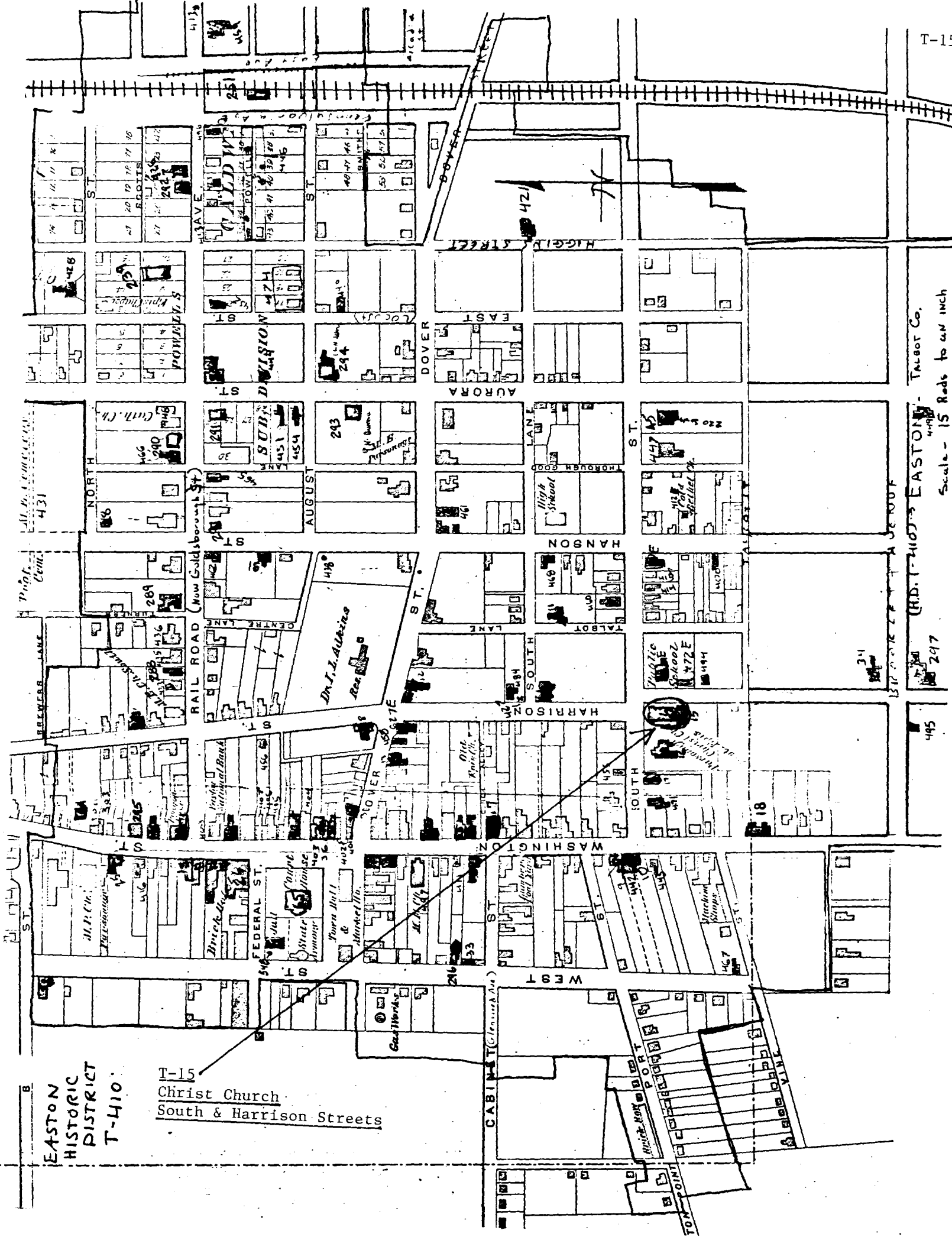
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

<p>1. STATE <b>Maryland</b>  COUNTY <b>Talbot</b>  TOWN <b>Easton</b> VICINITY  STREET NO. <b>South Street</b></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER <b>Christ Church Episco-</b>  ORIGINAL USE <b>Church</b> <b>pal</b>  PRESENT OWNER <b>Christ Church Episcopal</b>  PRESENT USE <b>Church</b>  WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Rough dressed granite</b>  NO. OF STORIES <b>1 vaulted storey</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME <b>Christ Church Episcopal T-15</b></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <b>c. 1865</b>  STYLE <b>Victorian Gothic &amp; Italianate</b>  ARCHITECT  BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>yes</b></span></p> <p>This is a very attractive Gothic style church made of rough-dressed granite. This material of construction makes the church outstanding because stone buildings are rare on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.</p> <p>The church is 3 bays wide and 4 bays deep with a steeply pitched A-roof with the gable end on the front. There are tall pointed arched windows set with diamond shaped beaded colored glass. These are very high, running almost from the ground up to the roof line. The front central bay of the church is occupied by a massive square tower, also of granite. The tower was originally flat-roofed and had a cornice of closely placed cut wooden brackets. It is very Italian in feeling. It now is surmounted by a very thin tall spire covered with tin.</p> <p>At the rear of the church is a protruding apse with buttress wings on either side which slope almost to the ground. These are really radiating ambrelatories around the 2 sides of the apse. This part of the Church construction is derived from late antique Christian basilicas and reflects early Lombardian Romanesque construction.</p> <p>The Church is very attractive and well kept-up. Its granite surface is pleasing and the whole structure has a very refined and restrained air- the parish house is noted on its own separate sheet.</p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered                      Interior                      Exterior <b>excellent</b></p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Paul A. Brinkman</b></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <b>August 28, 1967</b></p> </div> </div>	



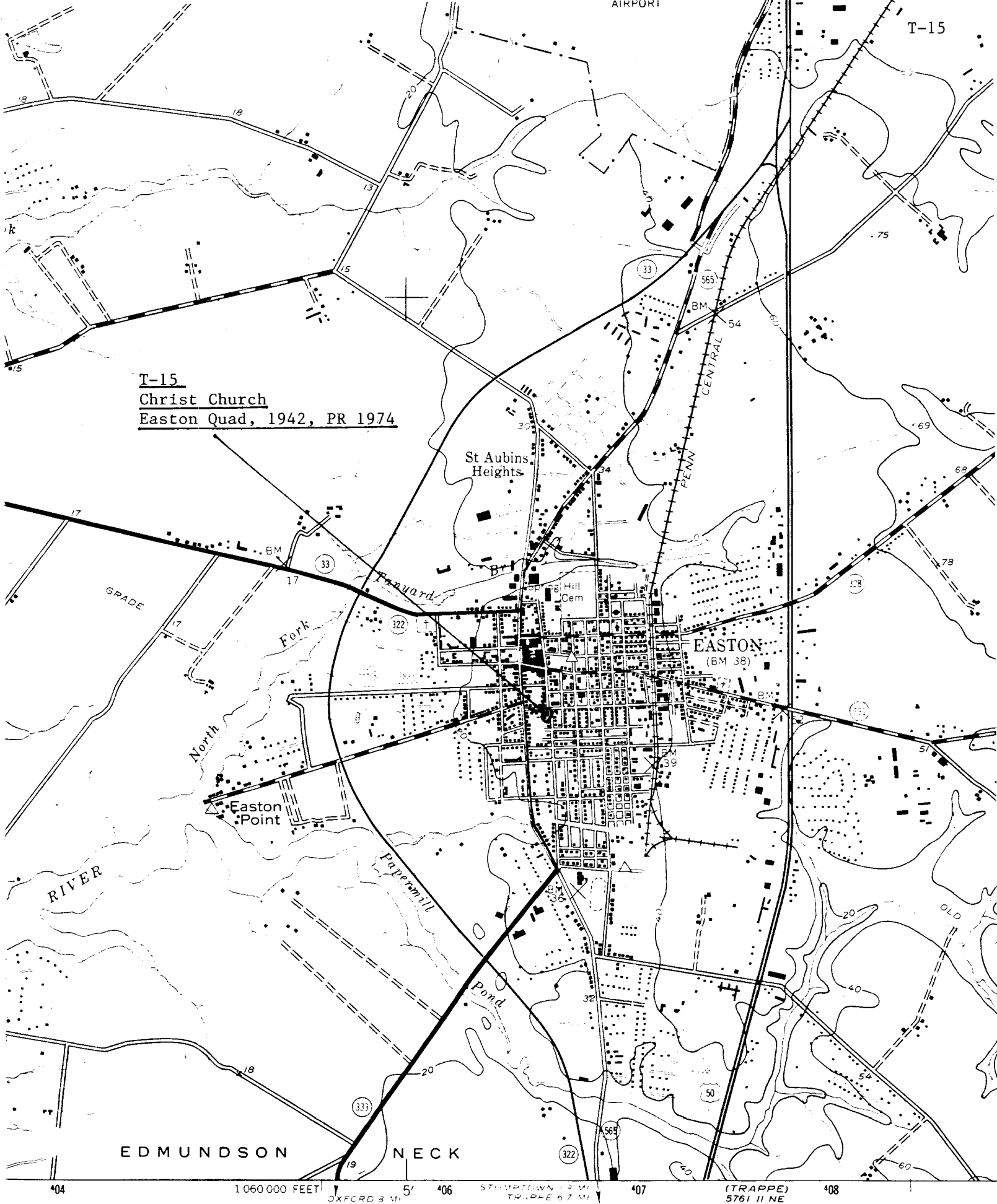


EASTON  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
T-410

T-15  
Christ Church  
South & Harrison Streets

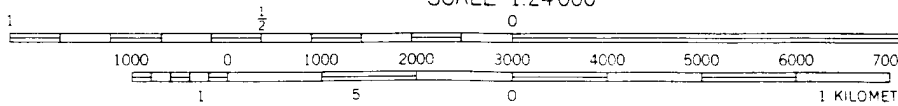
(H.D. T-410) - EASTON -  
Talbot Co.  
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch





vey

metric methods





CHRIST CHURCH T-15  
SOUTH STREET AT HARRISON  
EASTON, MD.

NORTH ELEVATION  
JULY 1976

ML FRITZ

F. R. VERNON - PHOTOGRAPHER  
510 DIAMOND STREET  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601



Christ Church - Easton T-15

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

June '69



31%

Christ Church

At corner of South and  
Harrison streets,  
Easton

Northeast facade

T-15